

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

, EC REPRESENTATION AT LONDON SUMMIT

1. EC REPRESENTATION AT LONDON SUMMIT

EMBASSY ROME REPORTS THAT THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (EC) HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AGREED ON EC REPRESENTATION AT THE MAY 7-8 LONDON SUMMIT. COUNCIL PRESIDENT CALLAGHAN AND EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT JENKINS WILL BE "INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THOSE SESSIONS OF THE SUMMIT AT WHICH SUBJECTS OF COMMUNITY COMPETENCE WILL BE DISCUSSED," INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE.

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THE AGREEMENT WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY A LAST-MINUTE CONCESSION BY PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING, WHO INSISTED THAT A "TECHNICAL EC PRESENCE" IS NOT ANALOGOUS TO EC PARTICIPATION IN THE SUMMIT, WHICH REMAINS A GATHERING OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT. JENKINS CHARACTERIZED THE AGREEMENT AS A "SATISFACTORY OUTCOME." (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) ROME 5026, 3/26.)

2. VAN WELL TALKS WITH THE SOVIETS

FRG FOREIGN OFFICE POLITICAL DIRECTOR VAN WELL BRIEFED AMBASSADOR TOON ON HIS MARCH 22-24 MEETINGS WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS. ACCORDING TO VAN WELL, THE SOVIETS:

--CRITICIZED THE FRG-BRAZIL NUCLEAR DEAL AND ASKED FOR SUPPORT IN THE LONDON SUPPLIERS GROUP FOR FULL FUEL CYCLE CONTROLS;

--SUGGESTED DETAILS ON PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS COULD BE WORKED OUT OUTSIDE OF A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY (CTB);

--STRESSED THAT ALL NUCLEAR POWERS, NOT JUST THE UK, USA AND USSR, MUST PARTICIPATE IN A CTB BEFORE THE TREATY COMES INTO FORCE;

--REITERATED THAT THEIR PROPOSAL FOR A TREATY ON NON-FIRST USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS WAS STILL ON THE TABLE, DESPITE NATO'S PREFERENCE FOR A NON-USE OF FORCE PROPOSAL INSTEAD;

--VIEWED POSITIVELY THE UPCOMING CSCE MEETING IN BELGRADE, AND DID NOT SEEM OVERLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE EFFECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES ON THE CONFERENCE; AND

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--CITED THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL CONGRESS IN CAIRO AS EVIDENCE THAT THE PALESTINIANS WERE MOVING TOWARD A MORE FLEXIBLE AND REALISTIC STANCE.

VAN WELL'S COMMENT: THE SOVIETS MADE AN EFFORT TO BE FRIENDLY, AVOIDED POLEMICS AND APPEARED RELAXED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF DETENTE. (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 4069, 3/27.)

3. KUWAIT PURCHASES SOVIET MISSILES

AMBASSADOR MAESTRONE REPORTS THAT THE KUWAITI GOVERNMENT HAS SIGNED A CONTRACT TO PURCHASE A "LARGE" NUMBER OF FROG AND STRELLA MISSILES. THE CONTRACT LEAVES KUWAIT FREE TO CHOOSE TECHNICAL ADVISORS, AND DEFENSE MINISTER AL-ABDULLA INDICATED THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY OPT FOR EGYPTIAN OR SYRIAN RATHER THAN SOVIET TRAINING ASSISTANCE.

ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE REACTION OF UNFRIENDLY IRAQ TO THE ACQUISITION OF BASICALLY OFFENSIVE RATHER THAN DEFEN-

SIVE WEAPONS WHICH BRING IRAQ WITHIN EASY RANGE, AL-ABDULLA INSISTED THAT THE MISSILES WERE NOT DIRECTED AGAINST IRAQ BUT MERELY PROVIDED KUWAIT WITH A MORE FORMIDABLE DEFENSE.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: THIS ARMS PURCHASE COULD HAVE MANY MORE RAMIFICATIONS THAN THE KUWAITIS MAY RECOGNIZE OR ANTICIPATE. THE PRESENCE OF THE MISSILES COULD PROVIDE IRAQ WITH A PRETEXT FOR MORE DECISIVE ACTION AGAINST KUWAIT AND GENERALLY DISTURB THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF THE PERSIAN GULF AREA.

OUR RELATIONS WITH KUWAIT ARE NOT CLOSE ENOUGH TO WARRANT A DIRECT DEMARCHE, BUT I BELIEVE THAT WE AND THE BRITISH SHOULD MAKE A COORDINATED ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE THE KUWAITI GOVERNMENT TO CANCEL THE PURCHASE OF THE FROGS. PERHAPS WE COULD BRING THE FRENCH IN AS WELL, THUS MAKING A COMBINED REPRESENTATION BY THE THREE WESTERN SUPPLIERS OF
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ARMS TO KUWAIT. ALTERNATIVELY OR ADDITIONALLY, WE MIGHT SEEK TO INTEREST SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN SINGLY IN A SIMILAR APPROACH. (SECRET) KUWAIT 1592 (EXDIS), 3/27.)
CHRISTOPHER

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